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Libya 9/6/69

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ACTION AF 18

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4697

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

TRIPOLI, SEPTEMBER 6 -- FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ACHIEVING ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1951, LIBYA IS NOW A PART OF THE ARAB REVOLUTIONARY WORLD, TRIPOLI'S DAILY NEWS SAID TODAY. ONE RESULT OF THE CHANGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE COUP D'ETAT WHICH OVERTHREW THE GOVERNMENT OF KING IDRIS ON SEPTEMBER 1, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED, IS THAT LIBYA SHOULD PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR THE ARABS NOW TO BECOME SUPERIOR TO ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

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TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

"SINCE THENQIRST DAY OF THE LIBYAN REVOLUTIONN ONE FACT HAS BECOME CLEAR: LIBYA IS NOW A PART OF THE ARAB REVOLUTIONARY WORLD.

"TO BE SO, AN ARAB COUNTRY SHOULD ADHERE TO THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES.
ARAB UNITY, LIBERTY AND SOCIALISM.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE LIBYA'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1951, LIBYANS FEEL NOW THEY ARE A PART OF THE ARAB WORLD. THEY NOW REMEMBER WITH GREAT PAIN, THE DAYS OF THE JUNE WAR WHEN THE GOVERNMEN' OPPRESSED THEM AND BANNED ANY MORE ASSISTANCE.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDG/MR
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RDS or XDS EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
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TO ARABS FIGHTING AGAINST ISRAEL.

"THEY ALSO FEEL THAT FORMER GOVERNMENTS PAID ONLY LIP SERVICE TO THE ARAB CAUSE.

"WHEN THE NEWS OF THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION REACHED WASHINGTON, A U.S. SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE REVOLUTION WOULD AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"THIS IS TRUE. BUT AS LONG AS THE AGGRESSOR, ISRAEL, STILL OCCUPIES BY FORCE, ARAB TERRITORIES, THE ARABS HAVE THE FULL RIGHT TO BE SUPERIOR TO ISRAEL. OTHERWISE HOW CAN THEY REGAIN THEIR TERRITORIES ESPECIALLY WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE BIG POWERS ARE UNABLE TO PRESS IFLAEL TO WITHDRAW?

"THE ARAB LIBYAN REPUBLIC, WE HOPE, WILL PROVIDE THIS SUPERIORITY. FOR THIS REVOLUTION HAS NOW MADE IT CLEAR THAT LIBYA IS CERTAINLY A PART OF THE ARAB WORLD AND CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE IMIDDLE EAST PROBLEM."

TWO OF TRIPOLI'S ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS, AL RA'ID AND AL YOWN, TODAY FRONT-PAGED THE STATEMENT BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL THAT OMAR EL SHALHI, ADVISOR TO FORMER KING IDRIS, HAD FLOWN FROM LONDON TO NEW YORK ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND NOT ON THE INVITATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE WAS RECEIVED IN NEW YORK BY A JUNIOR OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH DID NOT IMPLY ANY UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD LIBYA'S NEW REVOLUTIONARY REGIME, BLAKE SAID.

AL YOWM DEPLORED EFFORTS MADE BY THE DEPOSED KING'S ADVISOR TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR THE FORMER MONARCH, WHO IS NOW IN ATHENS. THE NEWSPAPER, IN AN EDITORIAL HEADLINED "BIG POWERS DO NOT SCARE PEOPLES ANY MORE," AND THAT OMAR SHALHI WAS REBUFFED WHEN HE WENT TO LONDON AND EXPRESSED ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD GET THE SAME REPLY FROM WASHINGTON "FOR LONDON AND WASHINGTON REALIZE X X X THAT THIS IS THE REVOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT THE WHOLE LIBYAN PEOPLE WOULD FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN IF ANYONE INTERVENED TO URSURP THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM."
BLAKE

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